Obituaries

Anna Baggett

Beloved mother, grandmother, great grandmother Anna Dolores Baggett, age 65, of Vernal passed away peacefully on Dec. 17, 2007 at the Basin Care & Rehabilitation Center.

Anna was born Jan. 14, 1942 in Pine Bluff, Ark., to Merle Marie McHammon and Franklin Butler.

She spent the majority of her life in Modesto, Calif., then moved to Vernal 10 years ago. Anna was a wonderful homemaker and battled numerous health ailments from a young age.

Anna made many lifelong friends wherever she went. She loved the company of her sisters and brothers and she loved to laugh and when she laughed it was completely infectious. She enjoyed crocheting and old John Wayne movies. She loved to listen to Elvis and '50s era music. She got the most joy in life from her grandchildren, they were her treasures and her two great daughters she knew for such a short time.

Mom was the most forgiving, accepting and supporting person.

She is survived by daughters, Dee (Kathy) Leato, Christine Johnson; son, Blaine Johnson; grandchildren, Rene (Kevin) Hiller, Shelby Coleman, Bobby Coleman, William (Shannon) Benedict and Melissa (Rob) Thompson; great-grandchildren, Audree Hiller, Riley Thompson; three sisters; four brother; and numerous nieces, nephews and many close friends.

Memorial services was Thursday, Dec. 19 at 4 p.m. at the Hullinger Mortuary.

Anna's family wishes to thank the staff at the Basin Care & Rehabilitation Center for the optimal care she was given in her last days. "Anna Banana" will be missed, but will always remain in our hearts and memories as a "Phenomenal Woman". We love you Mom, Nanny.

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Bill Sims

William "Bill" Garfield Sims, 70, our "determined guardian", passed away on Tuesday, Dec. 18, 2007, after a long and courageous battle of two separate cancer occurrences.

Bill was born in Buffalo Creek, Wyo., on July 5, 1937 (or was it 1936?). He served in the United States Marine Corps, and later attended the University of Wyoming, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in range management. He was employed with U.S. Forest Service and retired after 35 years of quality service.

He married Sherry Lynn Kopp on Sept. 15, 1967, in Swan Valley, Idaho. They made their home in Altonah and Roosevelt, where they raised five children together. They recently celebrated 40 years of marriage.

He is survived by wife and five children, Paul (Mindy) Sims of Midway, David (Andrea) Sims of Saratoga Springs, Jason Sims of Roosevelt, Scott (Kristin) Sims of Roosevelt, Julie (Austin) Sherman of Price; six grandchildren; two sisters; and one brother.

Preceded in death by parents, two brothers and five sisters.

Services were Saturday, Dec. 22, at the Roosevelt West Stake Center. Burial in the Roosevelt Memorial Park with Military Honors presented by the American Legion Post 64. Online condolences at www.hullingermortuary.com

He will be remembered by his family as a gracious gentleman, an unequaled mountain man and horseman, of an unyielding character, always being fair, a health enthusiast, and a loving father. We love you, Dad. You will be greatly missed.

Helen Vernon

Helen G. Vernon, age 63 of Fairborn, Ohio, passed away Monday Dec. 17, 2007. She was born Sept. 17, 1944 in Detroit, Mich., the daughter of John Clark and Edna C. (Kent) Gaspard.

Helen served in various capacities all of her life in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, currently as a member in Fairborn. She volunteered at the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base consignment shop and was a happy homemaker who had a gift for entertaining and decorating. She also loved to travel and spend time with her family.

Helen was preceded in death by her father. She is survived by her husband of 39 years, Jim; four children, Michael (Renatha) of Saratoga Springs; Mathew (Brenda) Vernon of Springboro, Ohio; Rebecca Vernon of Salt Lake City; Rachel Schaeffer and husband Keith of Fairborn; four grandchildren, Isaac, Nicole, Nolan and Parker Vernon; and mother, Edna Enelow of Pittsburgh, Pa. A funeral service was on Saturday, Dec. 22, at 11 a.m. in Fairborn, Ohio. Services in Vernal were Friday, Dec. 28 at 2 p.m. with a viewing one hour prior at the Thomson-Blackburn Vernal Mortuary. Interment at the Maeser-Fairview Cemetery under the direction of Thomson-Blackburn Vernal Mortuary.

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"Terminated Uinta Utes Journey for Justice"

Report to all members of
Felter v. Kempthorne and other interested persons.

December 27, 2007

Contact: Oranna Bumgarner Felter 435-722-3220
Dennis G. Chappabitty, Attorney at Law 916-682-0575

Roosevelt, Utah – After an intense and hard-fought five year battle in the Federal Courts, Oranna Bumgarner Felter, wonders if those Non-Indians, Companies and the Ute Indian Tribe enjoyed the wealth that was generated from funds that should have been paid to the Original Terminated Mixed Blood members during the last year every three months and just before Christmas, funds that Congress intended to be Orannas when it enacted the Ute Partition and Termination Act (UPA) in 1954.

The Ute Distribution Corporation (UDC) was created under the terms of the UPA as a way to divide monies, derived off gas, oil and minerals between the Mixed Blood Uintas and the Full Blood Utes.

I was just a young girl when I became the owner of UDC shares that had no stated monetary value and the law prohibited their sale or transfer to outside parties, said Felter, who was a minor child at the time of termination. "At the time of my identity as an enrolled member of the Uinta Band of Ute Indians was stolen from me I had no voice in what would become my destiny and I was completely helpless against shroud businessmen who were more educated in the Stock Shares such as UDC stocks and knew that they would generate Millions if not Billions of dollars.

I along with four others, Cal Hackford, Alvin Denver Sr., Dale Christensen and Richard Curry and around six hundred other original terminated individual mixed bloods and their descendants filed a federal civil action against the U.S. Department of the Interior in November 2002 in the U.S. District Court, District of Columbia. The case is know as: Felter, et al. v. Kempthorne, CV-02-2156 RWR. After suffering a dismissal on the statute of limitations on January 27, 2006, that was before Judge Roberts, we then filed an appeal in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. By order dated January 17, 2007, the Court Of Appeals remanded (sent the case back to Judge Roberts) to determine whether P.L. 108-108 saved any of the Felter Claims for dismissal on the statute of limitation grounds.

At this time we have filed briefs for and against yet another dismissal of the case and we are anxiously waiting for Judge Roberts decision.

This Christmas, Santa clause came with a great bundle of present for the non-Indian persons, companies and the Ute Indian Tribe who now own three fourths of the Terminated Mixed Bloods Stock Shares.

As everyone knows here in the Uinta Basin oil, gas and other mineral exploration has increased the value of a piece of paper that "had no stated value" when we were Terminated. Most of the people had to sell their UDC stocks to survive without any idea of what the value of the stocks were.

I wonder if my life and that of my family would have been different if the Federal Government and Congress had "protected" each terminated mixed bloods interests from all the unscrupulous dealings by people that resulted in the loss of our valuable UDC shares now in the hands of the Ute Indian Tribe who are getting rich off their own people, and non Indians? I think we could have all lived fairly good, if we could receive the payments the udc board of directors are paying out to its stockholders every three months, plus a big payment just before Christmas.

Ute Distribution Corporation Board of Directors also has filed a case in the U.S. District Court, District of Utah, over who should share in millions of dollars arising from water rights, contending they represent the terminated 490 when all they can legally represent is their stockholders, so who are they really representing?

The Ute Distribution Corporation is now comprised by a majority of non-Indian shareholders who contends in that litigation that its "stockholders" are entitled to a substantial portion of the millions of dollars held by the United States pending a court order accepting or rejecting its arguments.

"The non Indian UDC shareholders are trying to convince the Federal Court judge in Salt Lake City that they have always been entitled to the water funds because they obtained UDC stocks, but Congress clearly intended, when it enacted the UPA (Ute Partition Act) for the Terminated Mixed Blood Uintas to own and manage their own water and benefit from any funds derived from it, for them and their children.

Termination cheated my family and me out of the fair chance to become "mainstream Americans" while it handed our Indian identity, UDC shares over to non-members, corporations who pretend they are Indians with a legal right to own the terminated roll numbers of me and my people.

The Ute Indian Tribe sits idly by and knows they will benefit from a termination law, Public Law 671, that they fully support, thus putting every Indian tribe in the United States in jeopardy of being terminated as long as this law stays alive and breathing.

When will Congress finally wake up and admit the Ute Partition Act was an outright "failure" and it should be repealed tomorrow, with or with the approval of the Ute Indian Tribe who stopped the the UPA from being done away with at the National Congress of American Indians, thus putting them in line to be terminated next as they were to follow the mixed bloods within ten years.

To learn more about the Terminated Mixed Blood Uintas "Journey to Justice" feel free to contact either Oranna or Mr. Chappabitty at the above numbers or visit our Web site at: www.undeclaredutes.com our Web site is open to everyone. There are no passwords like other Web sites, feel free to accesss it, and learn more about the plight of the individual mixed blood Uintas.

We ask that all of the plaintiffs on our case continue to stand tall and pray for a good outcome when we hear from the judge soon. Happy, Healthy New Year!

Deborah Turney

Deborah Kay Turney, age 51, died at home on Dec. 24, 2007. She was born on Sept. 16, 1956 to George Neal Murray and Rose Irene Bowden. Deb married Danny Price, later divorced. They had two children, Joe and Kalli. Deb married John Michael Turney, later divorced. They had three children, Kim, Kayla and Cory.

Deb made her home in Jensen. She loved her family, friends, gardening, shopping and she loved Christmas.

She attended Harvest Fellowship Church. She loved spending time with God.

Deb is survived by children, Kalli Kelly (Chris) of West Virginia, Kayla Turney of Jensen, Cory Turney of Jensen, John Turney of Parachute; mother, Rose Murray of Arizona; sisters, Dianna Obermueller (Craig) of Jensen, Doreene Reynolds (Stan) of Jensen; brother, Robert Murray of Nevada; and seven grandchildren, Jaylee, Justin, TJ, Dayson, Mason, Mitchell and Morgan.

She is preceded in death by son, Joseph Kayle Price; daughter, Kimberly Michele Turney; father, George Neal Murray; and grandparents, Charley and Wanda Bowden, and Arlie and Myrtle Murray.

Funeral Services were Saturday, Dec. 29, at the World Vision Assembly of God (444 West 400 North). Viewing was one hour prior to services. Burial at the Jensen Cemetery under the direction of Thomson-Blackburn Vernal Mortuary.

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Wellness study shows prevention programs work, save money

PROVO (AP) – Wellness 101 seems to have a positive effect for some companies.

According to a new study, the payoff for putting employees through wellness programs is well worth it.

Former Brigham Young University professor Steven Aldana, a co-author of the study, said the skyrocketing costs of health care make the wellness programs a very affordable option for companies to save money.

For every $1 spent, companies save $3.50 in health care costs and $4 in absenteeism, Aldana said.

The study says participants in one particular program ate more fruits and vegetables, exercised more and cut back on fatty foods.

The study will be published next month in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention journal Preventing Chronic Disease. It suggests wellness programs can influence healthy diets without setting rigid standards, which are difficult to follow.

"It wasn't somebody coming in and imposing this real strict diet or very intense physical activity program," says Ray Merrill, a BYU professor of health science. "It was, 'Here are the benefits you can receive if you adopt this lifestyle.'"

Merrill, Aldana and other researchers evaluated the Coronary Health Improvement Project (CHIP), based in Illinois.

Participants in the course met for four weeks, four times a week for two hours. They paid $290 and had homework. Medical professionals gave tips on how to prevent chronic diseases and encouraged participants to adopt a plant-based diet and exercise at least 30 minutes a day.

To prevent relapse, they could enroll in an alumni organization that connected them with walking groups, support meetings and healthy dinners.

The study analyzed data from 211 participants. Eighteen months later, 63 percent exercised more, 78 percent ate less fat and 59 percent consumed more vegetables.

According to the study, participants showed the most change in the weeks following the study. But 18 months after the class, participants continued most healthy behaviors.

Merrill credits the education and support system for the success.

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